IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows (all remaining claims are presented):

Claims 1-14. (canceled)

15. (presently amended) A method for improving chemical and biological purity of a water stream containing contaminants, the method comprising directing flow of the water stream through interstices of a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments that:

(a) are hydrophobic but sorbent of the contaminants; and

(b) have antimicrobial compound ~~on~~ grafted to their surfaces;

whereby one or more targeted contaminants are sorbed from the water and proliferation of microbial organisms is reduced.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein, prior to directing flow of the water stream, the water stream contains hydrocarbons and wherein the fragments are sorbent of hydrocarbons.

17. (presently amended) ~~The method of claim 16 wherein directing flow comprises directing flow of the water through fragments further~~ A method for improving chemical and biological purity of a water stream containing hydrocarbons, the method comprising:

directing flow of the water stream through interstices of a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments, which fragments:

(1) are hydrophobic but sorbent of the hydrocarbons;

(2) have antimicrobial compound on their surfaces;

(3) are comprised of:

(a) a matrix of compliant, hydrophobic polymer; and

(b) an oil-sorbent, hydrophobic copolymer in the matrix;

whereby one or more targeted contaminants are sorbed from the water and proliferation of microbial organisms is reduced.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein directing flow comprises directing flow of the water through fragments further comprised of an antimicrobial compound grafted to:

(a) a portion of the polymer of the matrix; and

(b) a portion of the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic copolymer in the matrix.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein directing flow comprises directing flow of the water through fragments wherein the antimicrobial compound grafted thereto comprises an organosilane compound not susceptible to self-condensation in water.

20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein directing flow comprises directing flow of the water through fragments wherein:

(a) the compliant, hydrophobic polymer consists of ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer; and

(b) the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic copolymer consists of styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer.

21. (previously presented) A filter comprising:

(a) a container having a first aperture for entry of a water stream and a second aperture for exit of the water stream;

(b) a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments comprised of an oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material, located in the container and between the first and second apertures; and

(c) an antimicrobial compound grafted to the fragments;

whereby the filter is capable of both sorbing oil from the runoff water passing into contact with the fragments between the first and second apertures and reducing proliferation of microbial organisms.

22. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the antimicrobial compound is an organosilane compound not susceptible to self-condensation in water.

23. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

24. (previously presented) The filter of claim 23 wherein:

(a) the compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer is ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer; and

(b) the hydrophobic copolymer is styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer.

25. (previously presented) The filter of claim 24 wherein:

(a) the particles of ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer comprise about 10-30% of the mixture, by weight; and

(b) the particles of styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer are comprised of about 25-45% styrene and are in the range of about 4-24 mesh.

26. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the antimicrobial compound is grafted to substantially all surfaces of the fragments.

27. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the first aperture of the container is an open recess and wherein fragments are located on at least three sides of the open recess when viewed in cross-section.

28. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27 wherein the second aperture of the container comprises a perforated bottom plate.

29. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the container comprises a basket inside a solid-walled hopper, wherein the interior of the basket forms the first aperture, wherein the second aperture of the container comprises a perforated plate secured to the hopper, and wherein fragments are located (a) between the bottom of the basket and the perforated plate and (b) between at least two walls of the basket and the adjacent walls of the hopper.

30. (previously presented) The filter of claim 29 wherein the basket is comprised of expanded metal forming diamond-shaped holes.

31. (previously presented) The filter of claim 29 wherein the hopper has a cutout in at least one of its side walls at the end most remote from the perforated plate.

32. (previously presented) The filter of claim 29 wherein the container further comprises a bracket coupled to the outside of a side wall of the hopper at the end most remote from the perforated plate.

33. (previously presented) The filter of claim 29 wherein the hopper is rectangular in cross-section.

34. (previously presented) The filter of claim 29 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

35. (previously presented) The filter of claim 34 wherein:

(a) the compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer is ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer; and

(b) the hydrophobic copolymer is styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer.

36. (previously presented) The filter of claim 35 wherein:

(a) the particles of ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer comprise about 10-30% of the mixture, by weight; and

(b) the particles of styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer are comprised of about 25-45% styrene and are in the range of about 4-24 mesh.

37. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the container is a pipe.

38. (previously presented) The filter of claim 37 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

39. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the container is a filtration cartridge.

40. (previously presented) The filter of claim 21 wherein the container is an elongated, generally cylindrical structure having the first and second aperture at the ends of the cylinder.

41. (previously presented) The filter of claim 40 further comprising a screen covering the second aperture.

42. (previously presented) The filter of claim 41 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

43. (previously presented) The filter of claim 42 wherein:

(a) the compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer is ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer; and

(b) the hydrophobic copolymer is styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer.

44. (presently amended) A method for improving chemical and biological purity of a water stream containing contaminants, the method comprising directing flow of the water stream into a first aperture of an elongated~~, generally cylindrical~~ structure containing a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments that are hydrophobic but sorbent of the contaminants and have antimicrobial compound ~~on~~ grafted to their surfaces, through the ~~cylindrical~~ structure, and out of the structure though a second aperture of the ~~cylindrical~~ structure; whereby one or more targeted contaminants are sorbed from the water and proliferation of microbial organisms is reduced.

45. (presently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein the ~~container~~ elongated structure is a pipe.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

47. (presently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein the ~~container~~ elongated structure is a generally cylindrical filtration cartridge.

48. (presently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein directing flow of the water stream out of the structure through a second aperture of the ~~cylindrical~~ structure further comprises directing flow of the water stream through a screen covering the second aperture.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the oil-sorbent, hydrophobic material is comprised of a hydrophobic copolymer embedded in a compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer.

50. (presently amended) The method of claim [[50]] 49 wherein:

(a) the compliant, hydrophobic, olefinic polymer is ethylene propylene monomer or ethylene propylene diene monomer; and

(b) the hydrophobic copolymer is styrene-butadiene-styrene or hydrogenated styrenic block copolymer.